

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

Virginia Tech Shooting SITUATION REPORT #4 1230 Hours 19 April 2007

New information is in bold italics.

SUMMARY

An early morning shooting occurred on the campus of Virginia Tech, beginning at approximately 0730 hours 16 April, 2007 resulting in 33 fatalities and 29 injuries. The gunman, identified as Cho Seung-hui, a 23-year-old English major from South Korea, is among the dead. The shootings occurred in Ambler Johnston Hall and Norris Hall. The injured were transported to local hospitals in the Blacksburg and Roanoke areas.

WEATHER FORECAST

Blacksburg Area: Today: Showers likely, mainly after 1pm. Cloudy, with a high near 58. East wind between 6 and 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible.

Tonight: A chance of showers before 2 am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. Chance of precipitation is 50%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

State of Emergency: As of 1650 hours 16 April Governor Timothy Kaine declared a State of Emergency due to the VA Tech Shooting.

EOC Activation: The Virginia Department of Emergency Management/Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Normal Operations, providing assistance to local and state agencies as requested. VEOC also in contact with VA Tech emergency staff. The Virginia Fusion Center is receiving and disseminating information as appropriate.

Protective Actions: **Local Emergency Declared:**
Montgomery County – 16 April at 1402 hours

EOC Activations:
Montgomery County – 16 April at 1300 hours and 3 command posts are set-up.
VA Tech – 18 April 14:00 hours

OPERATIONS SECTION

State Warning Point: Normal Operations, monitoring situation

Local Liaison: Contacting Montgomery County Emergency Manager, maintaining contact with VDEM Region 6 and Region 4 Coordinators to obtain situational awareness and accepting requests for resources. Regional Coordinators Crigger and Coyle remain on scene working with University staff to coordinate recovery efforts. They are on 12 hour operational period, 8A-8P only. VDSS assets continue running Family Assistance Center (FAC) and are coordinating efforts with ARC and other support agencies. SMA provided dispatchers supporting university's information call center demobilized at 12:00 hours 18 April. No further assistance in the call center will be required.

The Virginia Tech EOC was opened on 18 April at 4 pm and remains operational periodically throughout the day for strategic policy meetings. The VA Tech Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) became operation on 18 April at 3 pm and is manned by the following support functions: Mental Health, Funerals, Transportation, Medical Expenses, Family Liaison, Employee Relations, Community Liaison, Communications, Volunteers and Donations and Family Follow Up.

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VDEM Regional Coordinators S. Crigger is helping to coordinate facility cleanup at the crime scene and to facilitate procurement of life guards for the VA Tech swimming pool.

VDEM Regional Coordinators are assisting VA Tech President in drafting a Local Declaration of Emergency.

Request*

Status

None

**Completed Requests are located in previous Situation Reports*

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services – VDH Regional Health Planner, Chief Medical Examiner and 9 additional personnel are on scene. The Emergency Coordination Center opened at 1300 hours 16 April and is coordinating activities with the VEOC.

Local VDH Emergency Planner is assisting the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) in developing a resource document for victims and their families.

The Virginia State Police (VSP) CISD team has 20 members on scene assisting first responders. The Chesterfield CISD team will return home 19 April in the afternoon. The North Carolina CISD team remains on scene with 4 new members along with 1 member of the South Carolina team. Two members of that team returned home on 18 April. The Fairfax CISD remains on scene with 4 members.

ESF 13 – Virginia State Police (VSP) – VT Campus Police have relinquished Incident Command to VSP. Supported by FBI, ATF Agents and Campus Police efforts are being directed to site security and evidence collection. The Secretary of Public Safety and VSP Superintendent are on-scene.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 6 – Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) – The Family Service Center (FAC) is staffed by 2 VDSS staff, 9 local DSS staff, 7 representing Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and Victim/Witness program, and 1 from the Virginia Funeral Director's Association. One additional family has been registered at the FAC. VDSS has a representative in the Emergency Coordination Center. Arrangements are being made to have representatives from the Funeral Directors Association and the Bureau of Insurance available. Staff from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund is on site to take applications. Behavioral Health Counselors have been on the scene since 17 April.

New River Valley Community Services Board staff and counselors continue to support the Family Service Center. The Blue Ridge Behavioral Health Authority working with the Red Cross has established support services at the Roanoke Airport and the Marriott Hotel in the City of Roanoke for arriving family members.

On 18 April, six families came through the FAC for OCME, 17 families for CICF services, and 6 families met with the funeral association representation. University staff has been assigned to support families throughout this process. As such future contacts for services will be coordinated with the family representatives. Agencies providing services through the FAC will assess the need for continued services and will remain available as long as the need exist.

At the Governor's request, Faith and Community-Based Responses are being coordinated by VDSS. An assessment of that coordination follows:

Churches across Virginia have mobilized and are holding vigils and prayer services. Updated information can be found at: <http://www.compassionandprayer.blogspot.com/>. The site is being offered through the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy.

The Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will provide an interpreter for the proposed service to be held as part of a Day of Mourning on Friday, April 20.

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2-1-1 VIRGINIA is working with the New River Valley Ministerial Association and developing a process by which to make counselors available over the next 30 days. The understanding is that the available on-site counseling will be closed down on Friday.

The VT Remembrance Fund for Student Safety has been established to receive and administer contributions that will provide support for the Virginia Tech community in the near term and will support efforts to make Virginia's campuses safer in the longer term. Support to the VA Tech community will help the University and local charitable organizations respond to the needs of those who were affected by the campus tragedy of April 16, 2007. Longer term, the Fund will support efforts within the Commonwealth to make our academic campuses safer through means including but not limited to security enhancements, planning, safety education and training, and counseling. The Fund may also support response efforts to future incidents of campus violence. This fund was initiated by Bill Reynolds and his colleagues at CB Richard Ellis. CB Richard Ellis, which owns and manages commercial properties throughout Virginia and North Carolina, will be reaching out to its tenants and vendors to encourage their support of the Fund.

Similar funds are being established at our colleague community foundations in Roanoke and Christiansburg. The Foundation for Roanoke Valley announced that an anonymous donor made a gift to create the School Violence Assistance Fund. Similarly, the Community Foundation of the New River Valley is in the process of establishing the 4-16-07 Fund.

Red Cross (ARC) – ARC is providing staffing at 3 locations, local YMCA, VA Tech Family Service Center and the VA Tech Student Center. They are also helping to staff the VA Tech Call Center. Shuttle service is being provided by ARC personnel from the Roanoke Airport to the VA Tech campus for arriving family members. ARC PIO is on scene. ARC is providing meals to emergency response personnel. **Local ARC representatives are assisting victims and their families in making transportation arrangements for themselves and their possessions and continue to support mental health services.**

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 - Resource Management – Coordinating resource requests. None Pending.

PLANNING SECTION

ESF 5 - Emergency Management – Planning Section preparing daily Situation Reports.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ESF 15 – Public Information – VDEM PIO is on scene at VA Tech. JIC was established 17 April. The JIC is fully operational with PIO representatives from VA Tech, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), and The University of Virginia (UVA) staffing the facility. **Approximately 150 calls from the media were received 18 April by the JIC with media interviews being conducted throughout the campus. A law enforcement briefing was held at 10:00 hours, 19 April represented by Virginia Tech, Virginia State Police and the US Postal Service. The Investigation continues and will be transitioning to the next phase over the next several days. Media presence is reducing throughout the VA Tech campus at this time. Nine of the shooting victims names were released on 18 April and 14 additional names have been released today, 19 April.**

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Montgomery County Emergency Management, Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, VA Tech Police, and Emergency Response Personnel remain on-scene. VA Tech has contracted with Cook Counseling to assist students with addressing the incident. The VA Tech Call Center Toll Free # is 800-533-1144. The Inn at Virginia Tech is providing support services to family members. The Squire Student Center is providing support services to students.

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